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State Board of Stock Inspection Commissioners a.k.a Colorado Brand Board

The Colorado Brand Board has a long history of protecting Colorado's livestock industry beginning around 1865 in what was then the Colorado Territory. On April 11, 1903, the State Board of Stock Inspection became an official state agency and today operates as a division within the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

The Division of Brand Inspection's primary responsibility by statute is to protect the livestock industry from loss by theft, illegal butchering, or straying of livestock. Today, the division administers more than 37,000 livestock brands to identify ownership of cattle, horses, mules, burros, sheep, elk, and fallow deer on over 4,000,000 head of livestock inspected each year.

Livestock inspection is crucial to verify ownership in cases of strayed or stolen livestock. Livestock inspection is also critical to Colorado and surrounding states' animal health programs. Working in conjunction with other Department components, disease traceback is strengthened by the ability to trace animals to their herd of origin during an animal disease concern or outbreak.

The division is assigned five principal regulatory responsibilities:

1. Record and administer livestock brands
2. Inspect livestock and verify ownership before sale; transportation beyond 75 miles within the state; transportation out of state; or slaughter
3. Inspect and license packing plants, livestock sale rings, and inspect all consignments before sale to verify ownership
4. License and inspect alternative livestock (elk and fallow deer) facilities
5. Prevent and return strayed or stolen livestock and to investigate reports of lost or stolen livestock

The division employs 65 livestock inspectors located throughout the state including 8 livestock foremen and 11 administrative personnel along with Division Director Rick Wahlert. The annual budget for the division exceeds \$3 million and is completely funded by fees levied to livestock owners and brand registration fees levied every five years. These inspectors also assist the Animal Industry Division (State Veterinarian) during an animal disease or an all hazards emergency.

The Brand Inspection Division is administered by the State Board of Stock Inspection Commissioners. The board is comprised of five members, appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, representing all segments of the industry.

The members of the board are as follows:

- Dr. Jim Heird - Fort Collins
- Mr. Roger Hickert - Akron
- Mr. Mark LeValley - Hotchkiss

Mr. Tim Thatcher - Pueblo
Mr. Tracy Lungwitz - Yuma

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